NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Project Report No. CP 460/II/09

PHASE II
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE DRUIDICAL JUDGEMENT SEAT, BRACKENBER MOOR, APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND, CUMBRIA

NGR: NY 658 334

FOR
APPLEBY ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

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SUMMARY

In July 2008 and July 2009 Appleby Archaeology Group and North Pennines Archaeology undertook two phases of archaeological evaluation (Phase I and Phase II) on land at Brackenber Moor, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria, as part of a community archaeology project. The fieldwork was undertaken jointly by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. (NPA), members of the group, and the public, under the supervision of NPA staff. The project was funded by a grant from The Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society (CWAAS), and was timed to coincide with National Archaeology Week 2008 and The Festival of British Archaeology 2009, which were organised by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA).

Brackenber Moor has been occupied since at least the Bronze Age, and a number of burial monuments survive from this period, including a number of possible Bronze Age burial cairns. A number of possible prehistoric settlement sites exist in the area, which could potentially date to the Iron Age or Romano-British periods. The Druidical Judgement Seat, on the southwest side of the moor, is a D-shaped enclosure, comprising an outer bank and inner ditch, with a single entrance on the northwest side. Similar sites in Cumbria are usually interpreted as Iron Age or Romano-British farmsteads. However, no archaeological features are visible within the enclosure, and no archaeological evidence has been available with which to date the site.

The Phase II evaluation saw the excavation of part of the enclosure entrance and a section across the enclosure ditch close to the eastern ditch terminus, where the earthworks were noticeably more pronounced than in the Phase I trenches. However, the earthwork banks near the entrance were also found to be truncated by ploughing, and a spread of stone was revealed within the entrance, which is believed to be a result of this activity. A significant deposit of stone was also revealed within the ditch terminus, which corresponded to the location of a high resistance anomaly detected on a previous geophysical survey of the site. This deposit appears to relate to the deliberate back-filling of the ditch terminus, and may also be associated with post-medieval activity at the site. A layer of natural silting was identified, which may relate to the occupation of the enclosure. Later, deliberate backfill deposits were also identified, one of which contained significant quantities of burnt stones, interpreted as ‘pot boilers’.

The majority of the finds from the Phase II evaluation were dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period. Most of the finds were interpreted as residual, and may relate to an early phase of activity on the headland, which predates the construction of the enclosure ditch and banks. However, it is also possible that the enclosure dates to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, given the paucity of finds from later periods.

The well-drained sandy soils at the site have led to the poor-preservation of organic plant remains. However, a small amount of charred grain has been recovered from a layer of natural silting within the enclosure ditch, which may relate to the occupation of the enclosure. The presence of charred grains of Emma wheat and 6-row barley supports the proposition that the enclosure is either prehistoric or Romano-British in date. A useful date for the occupation of the enclosure could possibly be gleaned from the charred grain recovered from this layer.

One of the primary objectives of the archaeological evaluation was to establish the date and function of the earthwork. It is recommended the charred grains recovered from the enclosure ditch are assessed by a specialist to determine their suitability for C14 dating, as dating the enclosure remains a priority for the research project. It is also recommended that the flint tools from both phases of the evaluation be drawn, and compared with other assemblages from Cumbria, and the results of the completed project be published in the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society.

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology would like to thank Appleby Archaeology Group for commissioning the project and Appleby Golf Club for granting permission for the fieldwork. Thanks are due to Andrew Davidson of English Heritage for his advice and support during the project. Thanks also to Margaret and Tom Brass at Espland Farm for their help during the fieldwork. North Pennines Archaeology would also like to extend their thanks to Carol Allen, for her expertise in the field of prehistoric pottery. The project was kindly funded by a grant from Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

The fieldwork was conducted by Jennifer Callis, Marjorie Campion, Carol Dougherty, Heather Edwards, Dilys Evans, Eric Jones, Maureen Moore, Phyllis Rouston, Richard Stevens, Tony Turner, Ann Wardle and Mick Yates under the direction of Martin Railton, with the assistance of Angus Clarke, David Jackson and Patricia Shaw of North Pennines Archaeology. The flint was assessed by David Jackson, and the environmental samples were assessed by Don O'Meara, North Pennines Archaeology Environmental Assistant. The pottery was assessed by Carol Allen. This report was prepared and illustrated by Martin Railton, Project Manager, North Pennines Archaeology.

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

1.1 In 2008 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. were invited by Appleby Archaeology Group to supervise an archaeological evaluation on land at Brackenber Moor, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria, as part of a community archaeology project. The fieldwork was undertaken jointly by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. (NPA), members of the group, and the public, under the supervision of NPA staff. The work comprised the excavation of a series of trial trenches (Trenches 1-4), targeting a possible prehistoric earthwork known as The Druidical Judgement Seat, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County Monument 427). The complete project also included landscape survey, to set the results of the trial trench evaluation in context, including geophysical survey and metric survey at other possible archaeological sites on Brackenber Moor. The project was funded by a grant from The Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society (CWAAS).

1.2 By necessity the project was divided into two phases, due to uncertainties regarding the group's funding bid. The first phase of the evaluation (Phase I) took place in July 2008, and comprised the excavation of three trenches targeting the earthwork boundary banks and ditch, and part of the earthwork interior (Trenches 2-4). This was timed to coincide with National Archaeology Week, which was organised by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA). The first phase of the evaluation is presented in a separate report (Railton 2008).

1.3 This report presents the results of the second phase (Phase II) of the archaeological evaluation, which was undertaken in July 2009, and was timed to coincide with the Festival of British Archaeology. This phase comprised the excavation of a trench across the enclosure entrance and part of the enclosure ditch terminus (Trench 1).

1.4 Brackenber Moor is situated *c.*3km to the east of Appleby-in-Westmorland, between the settlements of Hilton and Coupland Beck. It comprises 11ha of unenclosed moorland, bounded by the Hilton Beck to the north, enclosed fields to the east and west, and the A66 road to the south (Figure 1). Brackenber Moor is an open common, with a number of local farmers exercising grazing rights. Parts of the moor are used as a golf course, and are managed by Appleby Golf Club.

1.5 The Druidical Judgement Seat, occupies a natural headland, with steep banks on the north, east and south sides. It is centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference NY 719 189. This earthwork is the site of a possible prehistoric or Romano-British settlement, about which nothing was known (Figure 2).

1.6 The solid geology of the area comprises New Red Sandstone, overlain by glacial deposits of boulder clay. George Gill, on the south side of Brackenber Moor is a Site of Special scientific Interest (SSSI), and is well known because of a series of rocky crags, exhibiting rock formations which were laid down in the Permian Period. A number of wind-blown caves are also known in George Gill. The topography of the area is of undulating character with elevations ranging between *c.*150m and *c.*230m OD. A prominent hill, known as Ketland occupies the southeast corner of Brackenber Moor, with a peak of 192m OD. Flodders Tarn is situated toward the centre of the moor. A minor tributary circumvents the headland from the north, and flows towards Coupland Beck, where it joins Hilton Beck.

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKROUND

2.1 There are 20 known archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity of Brackenber Moor. This information is recorded in the Cumbria County Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.2 Brackenber Moor has been occupied since at least the Bronze Age, and a number of burial monuments survive from this period, including a number of possible Bronze Age burial cairns. Three of these are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (HER 1820-1823), but have been disturbed both in antiquity, and in more recent times by illicit metal detecting. Another burial cairn is located to the west of the club house, near Hilton Beck (HER 15896). A number of possible prehistoric settlement sites exist in the area, which could potentially date to the Iron Age or Romano-British periods. The Druidical Judgement Seat, on the southwest side of the moor, is a D-shaped enclosure, comprising an outer bank and inner ditch, with a single entrance on the northwest side (HER 1817). Similar sites in Cumbria are usually interpreted as Iron Age or Romano-British farmsteads. However, no archaeological features were visible within the enclosure, and no archaeological evidence was available with which to date the site.

2.3 The present route of the A66 to the east of Coupland Beck, is known to follow the course of the High Street Roman Road (HER 1890). The site of a camp is illustrated on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1861, immediately to the east of Coupland Beck (HER 1815). However, no visible evidence for this survives. The same map illustrates a 'Roman Fortress' to the northwest of Coupland Beck, on the north side of the road to Appleby (HER 1816). This has been interpreted as the site of a possible Roman signal station, which survives as a circular earthwork in the corner of the field. An earthwork enclosure on the east side of Brackenber Moor has also been interpreted as the site of a possible Roman signal station (HER 3473). A third possible site is recorded in the Cumbria County Historic Environment Record, situated to the southeast of the Appleby Golf Club clubhouse (HER 1819), however no evidence for this is visible on the ground.

2.4 No medieval features are known on Brackenber Moor, but a number of post-medieval agricultural features have been identified on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1861. Some of these survive as earthworks including possible stack stands (HER 3088), sand pits (HER 15875), gravel pits (HER 15876), quarries (HER 18574 & HER 25689), and a lime kiln (HER15877).

2.5 The golf course was founded in 1902, and the greens, bunkers and fairways of the present golf course occupy a large part of Brackenber Moor, between Coupland Beck and Brackenber. The Appleby Golf Club now manages the moor, and holds the title of 'Lord of the Manor'.

2.6 A military rifle range is believed to have been located immediately to the west of the Druidical Judgement Seat, on the lower slopes of the Ketland near George Gill in the 1880's (*pers comm.* Bill Flentje). During the First World War, parts of Brackenber Moor were used as a temporary army training camp. A photograph of 1901 shows an encampment north of the tarn (Appleby Golf Club 2003). The concrete foundations of camp buildings can still be seen near Flodders Tarn, to the northeast of the Appleby Gold Club clubhouse.

3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

3.1 In July 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd., with the help of Appleby Archaeology Group, undertook geophysical surveys of land at Brackenber Moor. This was supported by a grant from Charles Haywood Foundation, which provided the opportunity for members of the group to learn geophysical survey techniques, with the support of North Pennines Archaeology staff.

3.2 The geophysical survey area comprised *c.*0.5ha of land and was located in the southeast corner of Brackenber Moor, close to Espland Farm and was undertaken to target The Druidical Judgement Seat earthwork. Both earth resistance and geomagnetic survey were undertaken (Railton 2007a). The work was conducted in accordance an English Heritage Licence (Ref. AA/011404/5), as the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, protected by law.

3.3 A number of features were detected which could be associated with the former use of the earthwork by the Appleby Golf Club, as indicated on a modern air photograph of the site. These include possible land drains or gullies, and sub-surface deposits, as well as two visible spoil heaps. A modern service pipe was also detected to the north of the enclosure.

3.4 The earth resistance survey proved to be the most effective technique for detecting archaeological features at the site, although the presence of earth hummocks over the interior of the earthwork may have masked insubstantial archaeological features. No definite archaeological features were revealed within the interior of the earthwork. Both geophysical survey techniques detected the earth-filled enclosure ditch, and parts of the earthwork banks. In addition, the earth resistance survey detected deposits within the ditch terminals, which suggests that the entrance has been widened at some time.

3.5 Given the results of the geophysical survey, further evaluation work was recommended, in order to test the results of the geophysical surveys, and to determine the presence/absence, nature and extent of any archaeological features within the enclosure. It was believed that this could provide valuable information regarding the nature and past use of the site, and provide much needed dating evidence for the earthwork enclosure. In addition it was believed that this could provide a valuable study in terms of assessing the impact of earth hummocks on subsurface archaeological deposits, and the possible masking effect caused by the hummocks to geophysical survey techniques.

3.6 In addition to the geophysical survey, members of Appleby Archaeology Group identified a number of previously unrecorded earthworks on Brackenber Moor, comprising an earthwork enclosure on the Ketland, and a series of banks and ditches of unknown date. It is possible that these features are associated with a former field system of prehistoric, Romano-British or medieval date. A number of post-medieval agricultural features were also investigated, including areas of former ridge and furrow cultivation, and possible stack stands.

3.7 The Phase I archaeological evaluation of the Druidical Judgement Seat saw the excavation of three trenches (Trenches 2-4) out of the four trenches originally planned for the site (Railton 2008). It was evident from the Phase I evaluation that the earthwork enclosure originally comprised an inner bank and outer ditch occupying a natural headland, with an outer bank on the northwest side to further isolate the headland from the ridge of land to the west. The banks were constructed with material excavated from the enclosure ditch, and the inner bank at least was originally reinforced with cobbles from a nearby stream. These may have also served to support a palisade or fence, evidence for which consists of a single posthole in one of the trenches. The banks appear to have been truncated by later ploughing, which has undoubtedly also disturbed features within the enclosure. No suitable deposits were recovered with which to date the enclosure ditch and banks during the Phase I evaluation, and dating the earthwork was a priority for Phase II.

3.8 An assemblage of flint tools and flakes were recovered, which are typologically dated to the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. All of the flint finds were residual, and are likely relate to earlier activity at the site, possibly associated with the nearby Bronze Age burial monuments. The only internal feature revealed by the evaluation comprised a possible stone-lined pit. Interpretation of this feature was difficult given the small size of the trench. An Early Bronze Age button/thumbnail scraper, a blade and a flint flake were recovered from its fill, although these finds may also considered be residual, given later ploughing activity at the site, which had truncated the pit.

3.9 A single irregularly-shaped body sherd of hand-made pottery was recovered from a layer of ploughsoil, to the west of the stone-lined pit. The dating of the pottery was problematic due to the lack of comparable assemblages, the general scarcity of pottery from later prehistoric sites in Cumbria, and the absence of a chronological framework for handmade fabrics of this type. Consultation with a number of pottery specialists indicated that the pottery could date from anywhere between the late Bronze Age and early post-Roman period, although a mid-Iron Age date is not unlikely. The pottery was recovered from a possible plough soil, so cannot be associated with clearly stratified deposits. However, it is considered that the potsherd is likely to relate to the occupation of the enclosure, and remains the only evidence for possible Iron Age occupation of the site recovered to date.

3.10 From the three trenches excavated, a total of 5 soil samples were collected for the retrieval of plant macrofossil assemblages, as well as other artefacts and ecofacts. Features sampled included the fills of the enclosure ditch, a pit deposit, and a posthole fill. However, the site provided poor conditions for the preservation of plant remains. All the samples contained small amounts of charred remains, but the majority of the remains were thought to have been introduced through modern landscape management practices, and probably do not relate to the archaeological contexts.

3.11 It is believed that The Druidical Judgement Seat was subject to ploughing during the Napoleonic period, when large parts of Brackenber Moor were planted with arable crops. This activity is believed to be responsible for the paucity of archaeological features within the enclosure. Following this episode, the earthwork was apparently abandoned, and the characteristic earth hummocks which cover the site were formed by frost action on the former plough soil. The excavation has also revealed evidence for a charred layer of heather, which had previously colonised the site, and was evidently subject to management through burning. It is believed that this layer could be the source of some of the charred material recovered from the soil samples.

3.12 This first phase of the archaeological evaluation went some way towards fulfilling the project objectives, including establishing the nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological features associated with The Druidical Judgement Seat. The artefacts recovered indicated activity at the site during Early Bronze Age, and tentative evidence for occupation of the enclosure during the Iron Age or Romano-British periods. It was hoped that the Phase II evaluation would provide further evidence regarding the nature of early activity at the site, and provide much-needed dating evidence for the enclosure. To this end, some minor alterations were made to the original project design (Railton 2008).

4 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Project Aims and Objectives

4.1.1 This project forms part of a wider landscape study by members of Appleby Archaeology Group with the aim of developing an understanding of the history and development of Brackenber Moor from prehistoric times to the present day. The project also aims to provide opportunities for community involvement in archaeological research, including training in archaeological techniques and hands-on experience of archaeological work carried out to professional standards. Brackenber Moor has been selected by the group as an area of high archaeological potential, containing archaeological features from several periods, which has seen limited modern disturbance or agricultural improvement, providing an ideal focus for the group's research.

4.1.2 One of the primary objectives of the archaeological evaluation was to establish the date and function of the earthwork known as The Druidical Judgement Seat, which was believed to potentially date to the Iron Age or Romano-British Periods (Plate 1). A recent English Heritage document has highlighted the need for further research into this period, and described Cumbria as a 'black hole' in terms of Iron Age archaeology, as it is a region which lacks even a basic Iron Age chronology (*Understanding the British Iron Age: An agenda for action*, Haselgrove 2001, 25). The North West Regional Research Agenda has identified the Eden Valley as an area of high potential in terms of prehistoric rural settlement (Brennand 2007, 41), although this is a subject that is poorly understood at present. The proposed evaluation at Brackenber Moor therefore had the potential to make a contribution to the understanding of Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlement in Cumbria, and meet research objectives as outlined in both regional and national research agendas.

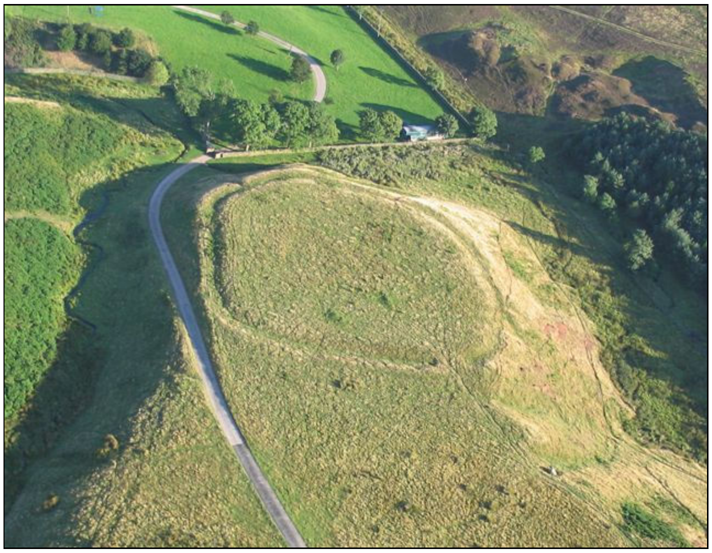

Plate 1: Aerial view of the Druidical Judgement Seat earthwork, looking southeast

(Photograph courtesy of Simon Ledingham, www.visitcumbria.com)

4.2 Trial Trench Evaluation

4.2.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. produced a revised project design for the Phase II archaeological evaluation (Railton 2008), which was approved by English Heritage prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. A licence for the evaluation was granted by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), as the Druidical Judgement Seat is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), protected by law. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1994, Revised 2008).

4.2.2 The completed field evaluation as originally designed involved the excavation of four evaluation trenches (Trenches 1-4), undertaken in order to determine the form, function, date and state of preservation of features associated with the Druidical Judgement Seat (Railton 2008).

4.2.3 The Phase I field evaluation comprised the excavation of Trench 2, Trench 3, and Trench 4. However, the excavation of Trench 2 was halted at a depth of 1.6m, which was believed to be the maximum safe depth, given the unstable nature of the subsoil, and permitted width of the trench. Therefore, the full depth of archaeological deposits in this trench was not reached, and was proposed that this be resolved in the second phase of the evaluation (Phase II), by providing an additional 2m wide trench across the enclosure ditch, close to the ditch terminus (Figure 2).

4.2.4 The Phase II field evaluation comprised the excavation of a 4m by 4m area targeting the entrance to the earthwork enclosure and a 2m by 8m trench across the enclosure ditch, making a 32m^2 area of excavation in total (Trench 1).

4.2.5 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological features associated with The Druidical Judgement Seat;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, structures, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes;
- to recover samples suitable for radiocarbon dating if these are present;
- to assess the impact of earth hummocks (caused by frost action) on archaeological deposits at the site.

4.2.6 Turf and topsoil were excavated by hand under close archaeological supervision, to either the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural substrate, whichever was observed first. Trenches were subsequently cleaned and all features investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. standard procedure as set out in the Excavation manual (Giecco 2003).

4.2.7 All excavated spoil was sieved on site in order to maximise finds recovery. Finds were returned to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. offices at Nenthead for processing. Consultation with appropriate specialists was then undertaken where required.

4.2.8 Environmental samples taken during the work were processed under the direction of Patricia Shaw, BSc Hons, North Pennines Archaeology Environmental Supervisor. The environmental assessment was undertaken by Don O'Meara, BA (Hons) MA, North Pennines Archaeology Environmental Assistant.

4.2.9 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data, the process being adopted as set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, 1991).

4.3 Health and Safety

4.3.1 Full consideration was given to health and safety issues during all fieldwork. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd Health and Safety Statement conform to the provisions of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) Health and Safety Manual.

4.3.2 A full risk assessment was undertaken to assess all real and potential hazards prior to the commencement of fieldwork. Participants on the project were given a health and safety induction prior to fieldwork commencing.

4.4 Publication

4.4.1 It is proposed that the findings of the completed evaluation will be published in the *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society.*

4.4.2 One copy of this report will be deposited with the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be available on request.

4.4.3 The project is also be registered with the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of archaeological Investigation**S** (**OASIS**), where a digital copy of the report will be made available.

4.5 Archive

4.5.1 All finds belong to the landowner, but initially have been transferred to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd's premises at Nenthead. Agreement will be sought for the final deposition of finds with a local specialist museum. Ultimately it is recommended that the curation of both finds and the site archive should be vested in Penrith Museum.

4.5.2 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts were stored in the appropriate conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this included controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, and immediate selection for conversation of vulnerable materials). All work was carried out in compliance with IFA Guidelines for Finds Work and those set by UKIC.

5 PHASE II EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The Phase II evaluation was undertaken between the 18th and 24th July 2009, to coincide with The Festival of British Archaeology. The excavated area (Trench 1) incorporated part of the east side of the enclosure entrance and the eastern ditch terminus (Figure 2). A high resistance anomaly was detected in this area during the previous geophysical survey of the site (Railton 2007)..

5.1.2 Initially, an area measuring 8m by 2m was excavated across the enclosure ditch and banks, close to the ditch terminus (Plate 2). Following this, an adjacent 4m by 4m square area was excavated over the ditch terminus and part of the entrance (Plate 3).

5.1.3 All excavated deposits were sieved for finds on site. At the completion of the Phase II evaluation, the excavated area was backfilled with the excavated material, and the turf re-laid by hand.

Plate 2: Working shot, showing the excavation of Trench 1 (looking southeast)

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Following the removal of turf and topsoil (100) by hand, Trench 1 was cleaned to reveal the remains of the banks and ditch of the earthwork enclosure (Plate 3). Within the topsoil in the entrance was a linear deposit of rounded stones. This deposit was *c*.2m long, and *c*.0.5m wide within the excavated area, aligned northeast to southwest, and appeared to be a disturbed spread of stone, possibly associated with ploughing at the site, or later golf course operations.

5.2.2 Beneath the topsoil, covering the entire excavated area, was a 0.05m-deep layer of grey/black silty sand (401) containing evidence of burning in the form of ash and charcoal. This deposit was seen in the previous evaluation trenches, and was interpreted as evidence of past heather management at the site.

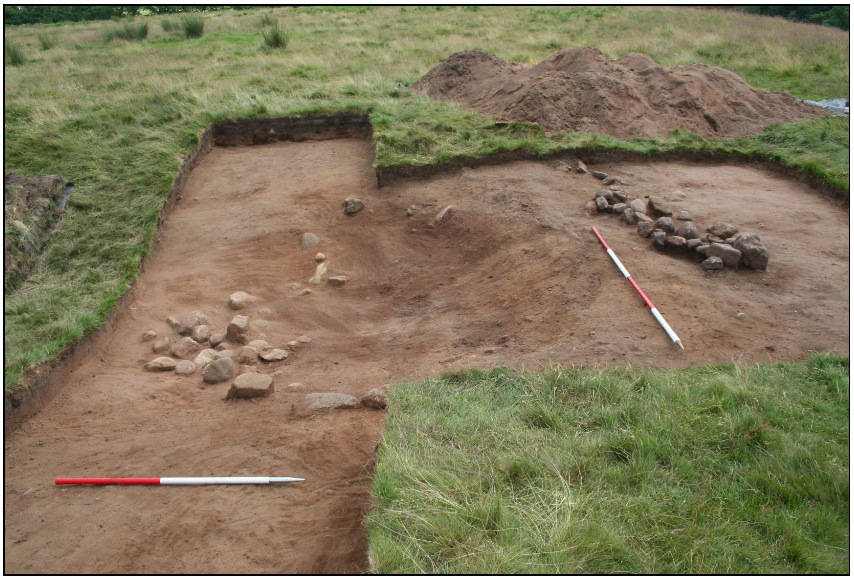

Plate 3: The total excavated area of Trench 1 following topsoil removal, showing deposits of stone in the entrance and the ditch terminus, looking southeast

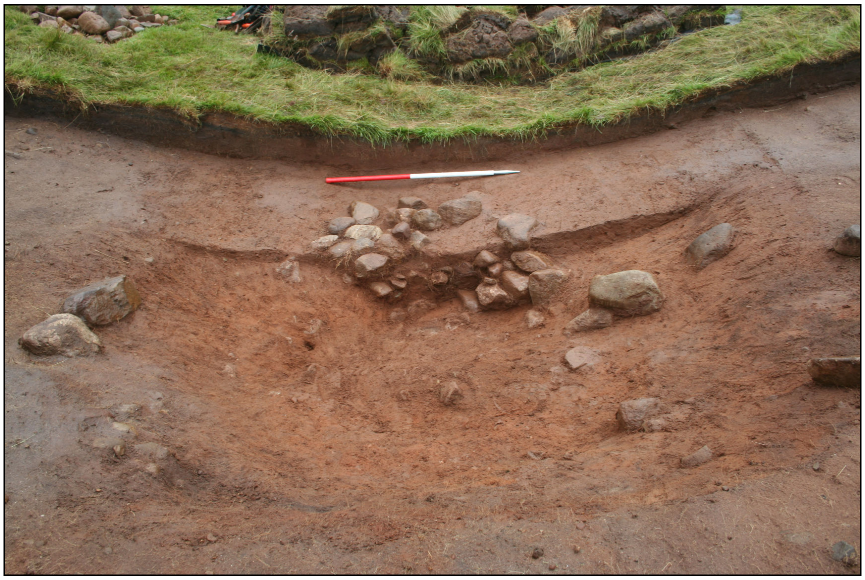

Plate 4: Half-excavated deposit of stone (407) in the ditch terminus, looking northeast

5.2.2 Following topsoil removal a substantial deposit of stone was revealed within the ditch terminus (Plate 4). A 1m-wide section was subsequently excavated through the enclosure ditch, the maximum excavated depth of this trench being 1.3m in the centre of the ditch.

5.2.3 The natural orange sand and gravel (412) was encountered at a depth of 0.4m below ground level (bgl) at the enclosure entrance in Trench 1, above which was a 0.1m-thick layer of orange-brown sand containing occasional rounded stones and gravel (410). This deposit contained patches of darker sandy subsoil, and appeared very disturbed, which is not surprising given the location within the enclosure entrance. A piece of unworked flint was recovered from this layer. Above this layer was a 0.18m-thick layer of pale orange-brown silty sand (409) containing occasional cobbles and some larger rounded stones. This layer was interpreted as a possible ploughsoil covering the site, which was identified during the Phase I evaluation. A flint blade and some pieces of unworked flint were recovered from this deposit. Above this was was the 0.05m-thick layer of grey/black silty sand subsoil (401), and a 0.05m-thick layer of topsoil (100).

5.2.4 The natural sand and gravel (412) was cut by the ditch [414] of the earthwork enclosure on the east side of Trench 1. The ditch [414] measured 4.2 wide at the top, with concave sides, and an excavated depth of 1.2m (Plate 4). A 3m-long section of the ditch was revealed within Trench 1, which terminated on the east side of the enclosure entrance (Figure 1). The ditch terminus was oval in plan with a diameter of 4m northwest to southeast, and 1.2m northeast to southwest. It was noted that the southeast inner side of the enclosure ditch was steeper (approximately 60^{o}) than the northwest outer side (approximately 45^{o}). This ditch profile, combined with the depth of the ditch and original height of the inner bank, would have provided a substantial barrier (at least 2m in height), especially if a palisade were present on the inner bank (Figure 2).

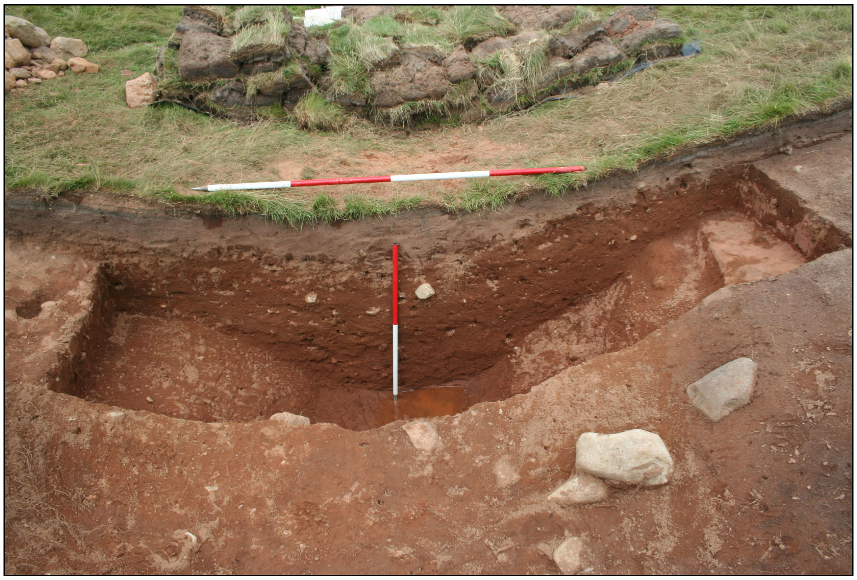

Plate 5: Excavated section through the enclosure ditch [414] in Trench 1 (looking northeast)

5.2.5 The excavated section of the enclosure ditch was filled by a 0.34m-depth of orange-brown medium silty sand (413) containing occasional small rounded pebbles. This deposit appeared almost identical to the natural sand (412), and was interpreted as a primary fill of redeposited material, which, given the very friable nature of the natural subsoil, had probably eroded/slipped into the ditch from the sides soon after its construction. No finds were recovered from this layer.

5.2.6 Above this layer, on the northwest side of the ditch, was a 0.05m-thick 0.3m-wide deposit of orange sand (415). This was interpreted as natural sand that had slipped into the ditch from the side, forming a 'step' in the ditch profile. Within the centre of the ditch was a compact 0.1m-thick 0.8m-wide deposit of orange-brown silty clay (416) containing rounded cobbles, which appeared to be a deliberate dump of material within the bottom of the ditch. No finds were recovered from either of these deposits.

5.2.7 Above these deposits was a darker 0.08m-deep layer of grey-brown silty sand (411), which may be interpreted as a layer of natural silting and/or vegetation growth. An identical layer was seen within the ditch section excavated during the Phase I evaluation, and this may relate to a period when the enclosure was occupied. A sample was taken from this layer for environmental assessment (Section 7, Sample 3).

5.2.8 Above this was a 0.6m-deep layer of orange-brown silty-sand (408), which contained occasional small pebbles and some pieces of sandstone. A very similar deposit was identified in the Phase I evaluation. A number of burnt cobbles, measuring *c.*0.1m in diameter, were recovered from this layer. These were interpreted as possible 'pot-boilers', which may have been used for heating water. A stone fragment and corroded iron object were recovered from this layer. This deposit was also sampled for environmental assessment (Section 7, Sample 2).

5.2.9 Above this layer in the ditch terminus was a sub-oval deposit of rounded boulders (407), measuring 1.9m long, 1.7m wide, and 0.8m deep. The majority of the stones comprised hard sandstone river stones, which were probably deposited in George Gill during the last glaciation (*pers com* Alan Dougherty). These stones appeared to be a deliberate dump of material into the ditch terminus, which probably relates to post-medieval activity at the site, rather than the occupation of the enclosure.

5.2.10 At the northern end of Trench 1 was a 3.1m-wide, 0.1m-deep deposit of orange-brown silty sand (406), containing frequent inclusions of gravel and occasional patches of clay, and rounded cobbles, which formed the outer bank of the earthwork enclosure. A single piece of flint was recovered from this material. A similar 2.3m-wide, 0.1m-deep deposit grey-brown silty sand (405) was revealed at the southern end of Trench 1, forming the inner bank of the earthwork. Above the outer bank was a 3.2m-wide, 0.2m-thick deposit of friable orange-brown silty sand (402), which also filled the north side of the enclosure ditch. This layer was interpreted as material from the bank that had been dislocated by later ploughing at the site. Lithic material and a fragment of prehistoric pottery were recovered from this deposit. A similar 2.3m-wide, 0.2m-thick deposit of friable orange-brown silty sand (403), was identified above the inner bank, which also filled the south side of the enclosure ditch, and was also interpreted as ploughed-out bank material.

5.2.11 Above these deposits and filling the upper part of the ditch was a 0.2m-deep layer of pale orange-brown silty sand (404), interpreted as a possible post-medieval plough soil. Similar sandy subsoil filled the enclosure entrance (409). A flint blade and flint flake were recovered from this layer, which was also sampled (Section 7, Sample 1).

5.2.12 Above these features was the 0.05m-thick layer of grey/black silty sand (401) containing evidence of burning in the form of ash and charcoal, and a thin 0.05m-thick layer of topsoil and turf (100).

5.3 Discussion

5.5.1 The Phase II evaluation revealed the eastern ditch terminus of the enclosure, a section of the entrance, and parts of the inner and outer banks. Both banks had evidently been truncated by later activity, and would originally have been substantially higher. The ditch had concave sides, being 4.2m wide at the top, and a depth of 1.2m, with a steeper south side. The ground within the entrance appeared very disturbed, which is not unexpected. However, this likely to be a result of later activity at the site, as well as activity related to the occupation of the enclosure.

5.5.2 The excavated section through the enclosure ditch revealed similar deposits to those encountered in the Phase I evaluation (Trench 2). These included a layer of natural silting and/or vegetation growth, which may relate either to a period when the enclosure was occupied, or to a period after it had been abandoned. Although the bottom of the ditch was not identified during the Phase I evaluation, the evidence from Trench 1 suggests that almost the full extent of the ditch was revealed in Trench 2, the primary ditch deposit being very difficult to distinguish from the natural sand.

5.5.3 A deliberate dumped deposit of stone was revealed in the ditch terminus, which probably relates to later activity at the site, rather than the occupation of the enclosure. This explains the presence of a high resistance anomaly detected during the previous earth resistance geophysical survey at the site.

5.5.4 There was a paucity of finds within the enclosure ditch, as very little was recovered despite the sieving of all excavated material on site. The majority of the finds were recovered were from within the enclosure entrance, and from the material forming the outer bank. Charcoal was recovered from a number of contexts during sieving and was retained. It was also noted that quartz pieces were present in most contexts, as was gypsum. Both occur naturally in the immediate vicinity of the site.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 All excavated soils and deposits were sieved for finds on site. All of the finds recovered during the Phase II evaluation were labelled on site, and returned to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. offices at Nenthead for assessment. All finds were labelled by context. These are summarised below in Table 1.

6.1.2 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts were stored in the appropriate conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this included controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, and immediate selection for conversation of vulnerable materials). The finds were subsequently sent to the appropriate specialists for assessment.

Context	Trench No	Material	Number	Weight (g)	General Period
402	1	Quartz Object	1	2.0	Unknown
402	1	Flint	1	2.0	Prehistoric
402	1	Pottery	1	2.0	Prehistoric
404	1	Flint	2	2.0	Prehistoric
406	1	Flint	1	1.0	Prehistoric
408	1	Stone fragment	1	21.0	Unknown
408	1	Metal object	1	5.0	Unknown
409	1	Flint	4	16.0	Prehistoric
410	1	Flint	1	16.0	Prehistoric

Table 1: Finds from the Phase II evaluation

6.2 Pottery

By Carol Allen

6.2.1 A single sherd of pottery was recovered during the Phase II evaluation of the Druidical Judgement Seat. This was retrieved from Trench 1, from the plough-disturbed material forming the top of the outer bank (402).

6.2.2 ***Description:*** the very small sherd from (402) weighed 1g, and measured 15 x 10mm. The wall thickness was uncertain as only the outer surface remains. It was dark brown throughout and was tempered with a moderate amount of angular white quartz, measuring up to 4mm in diameter. The tempering was visible on the outer surface.

6.2.3 ***Discussion:*** it is very difficult to be certain about the identification of such a small sherd, without any form or decoration. However, the colour and fabric strongly suggest that this is Neolithic. It is comparable with other Neolithic pottery known in the region, for example from New Cowper Farm, Aspatria (Railton 2007b). How it became incorporated into the bank is unknown, but it cannot have travelled very far or it would have disintegrated.

6.2.4 White quartz is common to the site, and was found in a number of the excavated contexts, suggesting that the pottery may have been manufactured locally.

6.3 Lithics

By David Jackson

6.3.1 ***Introduction:*** The lithic assemblage recovered during the Phase II evaluation at Brackenber Moor comprised a total of ten separate pieces from six separate contexts. Of the ten pieces recovered from stratified deposits, only three can be regarded as coming from relatively undisturbed contexts; deposits (406) bank material, (408) ditch fill, and (410) within the enclosure entrance, with the remainder being recovered from either re-deposited material (402), or possible ploughsoil (404) and (409). The details of the lithic analysis are summarized below in Table 2.

6.3.2 ***Results:*** of the ten pieces within the assemblage, only one piece can be categorised as a tool. The tool is the distal end of a serrated blade produced on mottled grey flint, which displays direct abrupt retouch along its entire left lateral margin forming the serrated edge. The remaining nine pieces within the assemblage can be categorised as *debitage*. Unfortunately, the *debitage* analysis was largely equivocal, being comprised of the proximal portion of a blade, an irregular flake, a probable naturally fractured flake, four chips and two refitted fragments of dark blue chert, although it is notable that seven of the ten pieces were of grey or white flint with the remaining assemblage made up of local cherts. Only one knapping technique was recognised during the analysis; this being the soft-hammer technique, although the presence of chips and fragments within the assemblage also indicates that flaking was also taking place with a hard-hammer strategy.

Table 2: Details of lithic assemblage

Context	Classification	Brief Description	Dimensions/Weight
(402)	Blade	Moderately abraded proximal portion of mottled grey flint blade. 4 dorsal scars, diffuse bulb of percussion and extensive edge damage.	Length – 28.05mm Width – 18.761mm Thickness – 4.19mm Weight – 0.002kg
(404)	Flake	Tertiary flake of grey flint with white creamy inclusions. 3 dorsal scars, marginal butt, diffuse bulb of percussion and moderate abrasion.	Length – 26.42mm Width – 11.41mm Thickness – 5.64mm Weight - 0.002kg
(404)	Chip	Chip of grey flint	N/A
(406)	Flake	Heavily abraded dark green flake of chert. Possible flake scars, but no clear signs of other flaking attributes. Possible natural fracture.	Weight - 0.001kg

Context	Classification	Brief Description	Dimensions/Weight
(408)	Chip	Chip of white cortical flint	N/A
(409)	Chip	2 X chips of heavily abraded white cortical flint.	Weight – 0.002kg
(409)	Tool	Distal end of serrated blade. Mottled grey flint with 3 dorsal scars. Direct abrupt retouch along entire left lateral margin forming serrated edge. Moderate abrasion and minor edge damage.	Length – 44.32mm Width – 18.32mm Thickness – 5.67mm Weight – 0.006kg
(409)	Fragment	Fragment of dark blue chert with cortical remnant and minor abrasion. Refits to chert fragment from deposit (**410**).	Weight – 0.006kg
(410)	Fragment	Fragment of dark blue chert with cortical remnant and minor abrasion. Refits to chert fragment from deposit (**409**).	Weight – 0.010kg

6.3.3 ***Discussion:*** although the majority of the lithic assemblage collected during the Phase II evaluation at Brackenber failed to provide any significant results due to the small size of the assemblage and the non-diagnostic nature of most of the material, the significant occurrence of grey and white flint supports the findings of the Brackenber Moor Phase I lithic analysis, and the findings of P. J. and J. Cherry (1987, 2002), in which lithic assemblages from Neolithic and Bronze Age sites within the uplands of Cumbria are largely dominated by fresh flint, probably brought into the area via trading routes with East Yorkshire.

6.3.4 The most interesting aspect of the Phase II assemblage is the presence of a broken blade and a serrated blade. It has been noted by Cherry and Cherry (2002) that tools produced on blades of this type are common within the uplands of Cumbria throughout the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Yet, it has also been noted that blade production becomes an insignificant component of lithic technology after the Early Neolithic (Butler 2005). However, this change in lithic technology may be biased towards areas with an abundant raw material source in which a more expedient technology was sufficient after the early Neolithic. As good quality raw material is generally lacking in Cumbria, the continuation of blade technology into the later Neolithic and Bronze Age periods may have been necessary in order to maximise the productivity of the raw material.

6.3.5 ***Conclusions:*** taken together, the lithic assemblages retrieved during both Phase I and Phase II of the Brackenber Moor project have provided some tentative results about stone-tool production and raw material procurement at the site. The dominance of grey flint within both assemblages has served to support the findings of P. J. and J.

Cherry (1987, 2002) in which sites like Brackenber probably had strong trading links with East Yorkshire during the later Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. This Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date is also indicated by the type of technology employed, and the type of tools produced at the site. However, as previously mentioned during the assessment of the Phase I lithic assemblage, there are inherent difficulties in attempting to firmly interpret such small lithic assemblages, especially when much of the material has come from disturbed contexts and may not be related. Therefore, it is recommended that any future archaeological work at the site be undertaken with strategies in place for the optimal retrieval of lithic material

6.4 Other Finds

6.4.1 ***Metal objects***: a very corroded iron object was recovered from the upper fill of the enclosure ditch (408). The object was roughly circular, measuring 23mm in diameter, and 12mm thick. The object was too corroded to provide any useful information, being almost totally mineralised, and was discarded.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

By Don O'Meara

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This work resulted from the Phase II evaluation of the enclosure site, known as the Druidical Judgement Seat, on Brackenber Moor near Appleby-in Westmorland, Cumbria. The excavation revealed the presence of surviving archaeological features and deposits at the site associated with the enclosure. From the section across the enclosure ditch, a total of 3 samples were removed from the ditch fills (Samples 1-3), details of which appear in Table 3 below. The samples were taken for the retrieval of suitable material for radiocarbon dating, as well as other artefacts and ecofacts.

7.1.2 The methodology employed required that the whole-earth samples be broken down and split into their various different components. The samples were manually floated and sieved through a 'Siraf' style flotation tank. (See Table 4 below for context and sample information). The residue was retained, described and scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments. The flot was dried slowly and scanned at x40 magnification for charred and uncharred botanical remains. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at North Pennines Archaeology. Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

7.1.3 The retent, like the residue from wet sieving, will contain any larger items of bone, heavy (eg waterlogged) ecofacts or artefacts, and the heavy portion of the matrix, usually as stones and gravel. The flot or floating fraction will generally contain organic material such as plant matter, fine bones, cloth, leather and insect remains. A rapid scan at this stage was done to allow further recommendations to be made as to the potential for further study by entomologists or palaeobotanists, with a view to retrieving vital economic information from the samples.

7.1.4 Favourable preservation conditions can lead to the retrieval of organic remains that may produce a valuable suite of information, in respect of the depositional environment of the material, thus enabling assessment of anthropogenic activity, seasonality and climate, and elements of the economy associated with the features from which the samples are removed.

7.1.5 Sample numbers appear in brackets thus < >, whilst context numbers appear in brackets thus ( ) for all analysis and discussion below.

7.2 Results

7.2.1 Sample (404) <1> contained no material which could be identified as being of cultural origin. Of the small amounts of metallic material recovered, all appeared to be naturally occurring iron-rich minerals. A large amount (200ml) of grass root material was recovered in the flot. No material of archaeobotanical significance was recovered.

7.2.2 Sample (408) <2> contained also no material which could be identified as being of cultural origin. Small amounts of metallic material recovered but all appeared to be naturally occurring iron-rich minerals. A moderate amount (80ml) of grass root material was recovered in the flot. Again no material of archaeobotanical significance was recovered from the flot.

7.2.3 Sample (411) <3> contained no material which could be identified as being of cultural origin. Of the small amounts of metallic material recovered, all appeared to be naturally occurring iron-rich minerals. A low amount (300ml) of grass root material was recovered in the flot. The presence of a charred glume base of an Emmer-like wheat variety was not complete enough for a firm identification as it lacked the tertiary venation (longitudinal striations) to verify it. A charred barley grain was also recovered with the appearance of a hulled variety and was quite narrow. It was probably 6-row barley from the occupation period of the site, but again the grain was not defined enough for a firm identification and the ventral groove was abraded. There was a slight twist towards the top of the grain though that can indicate a 6-row variety. A charred oat grain was also present as was a seed of charred *Chenopodium album* (goose-grass), a plant common as a weed of arable land.

Table 3: Details of environmental analysis of the Phase II evaluation (DJS-B)

Sample	1	2	3
Context	404	408	411
Volume processed (litres)	40	40	40
Volume of retent(ml)	4300	8200	7500
Volume of flot (ml)	200	80	30
Samples suitable for radiocarbon dating	-	-	√
Residue contents (relative abundance)			
Bone/teeth, burnt bone	-	-	-
Charcoal	-	-	-
Pottery	-	-	-
Quartz	-	-	-
Stones/gravel	3	3	3
Flot matrix (relative abundance)			
Bone/teeth, burnt bone	-	-	-
Charcoal	-	-	-
Grass seeds, modern	-	-	-
Modern roots	3	3	3
Woody plant parts	-	-	-
Charred plant remains from flot (total counts)			
(c) *Avena* sp grain (Oats)	-	-	1
(c) *Hordeum* sp grain (Indet. barley)	-	-	1
(c) *Triticum* sp grain (Wheat)	-	-	-
(c) Cerealia indeterminate	-	-	-
(c) Chaff	-	-	1
Other plant remains (relative abundance)			
(x) *Chenopodium* sp (Goosefoot)	-	-	1

(c: cereal types, x: wide niche) Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 3 (highest) where 0 is not present.

7.3 Discussion and interpretation

7.3.1 The well-drained sandy soils do not seem to have preserved plant remains in any great quantities, considering the large volumes processed (40 litres for each sample). It is the charred nature of the seeds recovered which seem to have preserved them in the contexts in which they were recovered.

7.3.2 The root material does not suggest heavy bioturbation of the soil as all the roots recovered were filamentous roots from herbaceous plants (most likely grasses), which can reach a considerable depth in sandy soils.

7.3.3 Only one of the contexts, Sample <3> (411), produced charred cereal remains, present as an emmer like glume base, a grain of charred barley, and one of an oat variety. Although neither the charred barley nor the glume base can be firmly identified due to their abrasions, albeit to different degrees, they both indicate a period before the Medieval. The type of oat is not specific to period and without the chaff cannot be firmly identified. It is also possible that this is a wild oat variety and thus may be an inclusion similar to the weed *Chenopodium*.

7.3.4 These charred remains support the the proposed age of the site as being either prehistoric or Romano-British, as 2-row barley had been adopted for general use by the Medieval period. Emmer wheat is also one of the ancient varieties of wheat (Zohary & Hopf 2000: 46) that had ceased to be used in the more modern period and now is only grown in the UK by specialists for research, or in Italy where it is still grown in upland areas. A useful date for the enclosure could therefore possibly be gleaned from the charred grain recovered from this sample, especially as the sample came from the bottom of the ditch.

8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Conclusions

8.1.1 Appleby Archaeology Group has completed an archaeological evaluation of the Druidical Judgement Seat earthwork on Brackenber Moor, Appleby-in-Westmorland, in two Phases, under the supervision of staff from North Pennines Archaeology. This work forms part of a wider landscape project, with the aim of investigating the archaeology and history of Brackenber Moor, which was believed to have been occupied since at least the Bronze Age. One of the primary objectives of the archaeological evaluation was to establish the date and function of the earthwork known as The Druidical Judgement Seat, which was believed to potentially date to the Iron Age or Romano-British Periods.

8.1.2 It was evident from the Phase I trial trench evaluation that the earthwork enclosure originally comprised an inner bank and outer ditch occupying a natural headland, with an outer bank on the northwest side to further isolate the headland from the ridge of land to the west. The banks were constructed with material excavated from the enclosure ditch, and the inner bank at least was originally reinforced with cobbles from the nearby stream. These may have also served to support a palisade or fence, evidence for which consisted of a single posthole. The banks had been reduced by post-medieval ploughing, which is also believed to have disturbed features within the enclosure. Although no firm dating evidence for the construction of the earthwork had been recovered, the enclosure is morphologically similar to sites northeast Yorkshire, the Tees Valley and southeast Durham, typically dated to the middle or later pre-Roman Iron Age.

8.1.2 The Phase II evaluation saw the excavation of part of the enclosure entrance and a section across the enclosure ditch, close to the eastern ditch terminus, where the earthworks were noticeably more pronounced than in the previous trenches. However, the earthwork banks near the entrance were also found to be truncated by ploughing, and a spread of stone was revealed within the entrance, which is believed to be a result of this activity. A significant deposit of stone was also revealed within the ditch terminus, which corresponded to the location of a high resistance anomaly detected on a previous geophysical survey of the site. This deposit appears to relate to the deliberate back-filling of the ditch terminus, and may also be associated with post-medieval activity at the site.

8.1.3 Deposits within the enclosure ditch largely corresponded to those identified in the Phase I evaluation. Although it was believed the bottom of the ditch was not revealed in Phase I, the evidence from Phase II suggests that almost the full extent of the ditch was revealed by the earlier work, the primary deposit being very similar to the natural sand. A layer of natural silting was identified in both ditch sections, which may relate to the occupation of the enclosure. Later, deliberate backfill deposits were also identified, one of which contained significant quantities of burnt stones, interpreted as ‘pot boilers’. Unfortunately no stratified finds were recovered from the enclosure ditch with which to date this activity.

8.1.4 The majority of the finds from the Phase I evaluation were dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period. Most of the finds were interpreted as residual, and appear to relate to an early phase of activity on the headland, which may predate the construction of the enclosure ditch and banks. However, it is also possible that the enclosure is Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date, given the paucity of finds from later periods. In particular, flint tools and flakes were recovered from both phases of evaluation This Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date is indicated by the type of technology employed, and the type of tools produced. The material used suggests that the area had strong trading links with East Yorkshire during this period.

8.1.5 Consultation with a number of pottery specialists indicated that the Phase I pottery could date from anywhere between the late Bronze Age and early post-Roman period, although date a mid-Iron Age date is not unlikely. The pottery was recovered from a possible plough soil, so cannot be associated with clearly stratified deposits. However, it is considered that the potsherd is likely to relate to the occupation of the enclosure, and remains the only evidence for possible Iron Age occupation of the site recovered to date. The Phase II pottery is potentially Neolithic in date, and again may relate to an earlier period of activity at the site. Similar pottery has been recovered in West Cumbria, from a series of pits at New Cowper Farm, and it is possible that the headland was similarly utilised for the deposition of material in the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period.

8.1.6 The well-drained sandy soils at the site have led to the poor-preservation of organic plant remains. However, a small amount of charred grain has been recovered from a layer of natural silting within the enclosure ditch, which may relate to the occupation of the enclosure. The presence of charred grains of Emma wheat and 6-row barley supports the proposition that the enclosure is either prehistoric or Romano-British in date. A useful date for the occupation of the enclosure could possibly be gleaned from the charred grain recovered from this layer.

8.1.7 The evaluation has also provided an opportunity to investigate the impact of earth hummocks (caused by frost action) on archaeological deposits at the site. It is believed locally that The Druidical Judgement Seat was subject to ploughing during the Napoleonic period, when large parts of Brackenber Moor were planted with arable crops. This activity may be responsible for the paucity of archaeological features within the enclosure. Following this episode, the earthwork was apparently abandoned, and the characteristic earth hummocks which cover the site were formed from the former plough soil. Where excavated, these hummocks were found to contain quantities of rounded stones within the topsoil, suggesting that the deposits of stone (presumably left by ploughing) were a catalyst to the formation of the earth hummocks. The excavation has also revealed evidence that heather, which would have colonised the area, and was subject to management through burning.

8.2 Recommendations

8.2.1 This report presents the results of the final stage of the archaeological evaluation, in light of the previous phase of work at the site. The results have gone some way towards fulfilling the project objectives, including establishing the nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological features associated with The Druidical Judgement Seat. Despite the apparent truncation of archaeological features within the enclosure, it is possible that further cut features survive at the site, similar to the pit revealed during Phase I. An open-area excavation could potentially provide further information regarding the nature of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity at the site.

8.2.2 The Phase II evaluation provided the opportunity the take soil samples from the enclosure ditch for radiocarbon dating. It is recommended the charred grains are assessed by a specialist to determine their suitability for C14 dating, as dating the enclosure remains a priority for the research project. No further work is warranted on the environmental samples, due to the low numbers of plant remains.

8.2.3 It is also recommended that the flint tools from both phases of the evaluation be drawn, and compared with other assemblages from Cumbria, and the results of the completed project be published in the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

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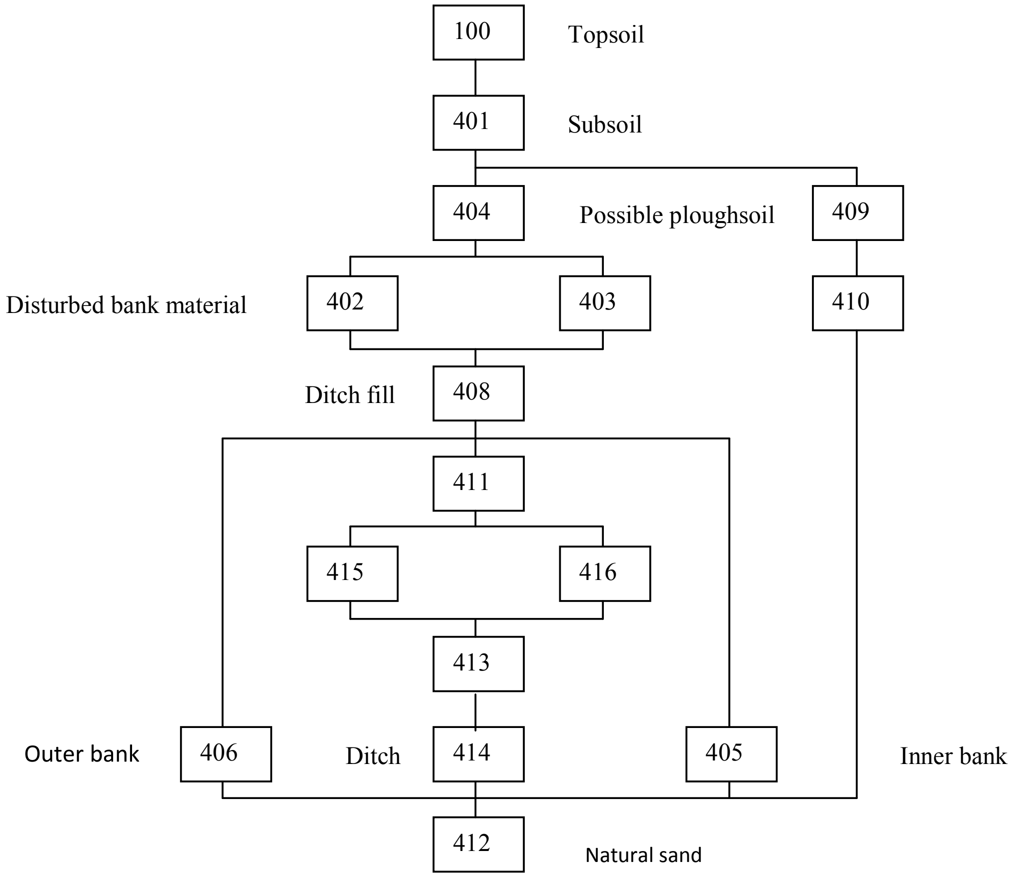
APPENDIX I: CONTEXTS

Trench 1 Context Table

Context	**Description**	**Above**	**Below**	**Filled by**	**Fill of**
100	Turf & topsoil	401	N/A		
Trench 1:					
401	Subsoil layer	404	100		
402	Redeposited outer bank	406	404		
403	Redeposited inner bank	405	404		
404	Possible ploughsoil layer in ditch	402, 403, 408	401		
405	Inner bank deposit	412	403		
406	Outer bank deposit	412	402		
407	Stone deposit	408	404		
408	Upper ditch fill	411	407		414
409	Possible ploughsoil at entrance	410	401		
410	Sandy subsoil within entrance	412	409		
411	Silty sand ditch fill	415, 416	408		414
412	Natural sand and gravel	N/A	410, 414		
413	Sandy fill of enclosure ditch	414	411		414
414	Cut of enclosure ditch	412	413	408, 411, 413, 415, 416	
415	Sand deposit	413	411		414
416	Clayey sand deposit	413	411		414

Trench 1 Matrix



APPENDIX II: ILLUSTRATIONS